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Chairman: Mr. Bródi ..... (Hungary)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 134: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (A/63/610, A/63/713, A/63/724 and A/63/746/Add.7)

Agenda item 141: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (A/63/549 and Corr.1, A/63/709 and A/63/746/Add.10)

Agenda item 138: Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (A/63/607, A/63/710 and Add.1 and A/63/746/Add.3)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) for the period from 1 July to 30 June 2008 (A/63/610), said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $470,856,100 for the Operation, and expenditure had been $465,272,000, leaving an unencumbered balance of $5,584,100, which represented an implementation rate of 98.8 per cent.

2. The main reasons for the variance were lower-than-projected requirements for travel on emplacement, rotation and repatriation for United Nations police, military observers and military contingents; the suspension of hazardous duty station allowance for five locations from May 2007; and delayed recruitment of national staff.

3. The General Assembly was invited to decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $5,584,100 and of other income for the period ended 30 June 2008 amounting to $13,915,900.

4. The proposed budget for the Operation for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/724) was 6.4 per cent higher than the resources that had been approved for 2008/09, reflecting additional international staff requirements; increased facilities and infrastructure requirements; increased air transportation costs; and the replacement of information technology equipment.

5. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate the amount of $505,799,500 for the maintenance of the Operation from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 and to assess the amount of $42,149,958 for the period from 1 to 31 July 2009 and the further amount of $463,649,416 at a monthly rate of $42,149,958, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Operation.

6. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/607), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $169,596,300 for the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $162,633,400, leaving an unencumbered balance of $6,962,900, which represented an implementation rate of 95.9 per cent.

7. The main reasons for the variance were lower levels of reimbursement to contributors of formed police; lower medical costs; reduced expenditures on facilities and infrastructure; lower air transportation costs through non-acquisition of a search-and-rescue helicopter; and a lower-than-projected average number of international staff. The General Assembly was invited to decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $6,692,900 and of other income for the period ended 30 June 2008 amounting to $7,514,600.

8. The proposed budget for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/710 and Add.1) was 21.9 per cent, higher than the resources that had been approved for 2008/09, reflecting additional international staff requirements, increased air transportation costs caused by higher contract rates and increased mission subsistence allowances and travel costs for United Nations police.

9. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate the amount of $210,610,000 for the maintenance of the Mission from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 and to assess the amount of $139,160,555 at a monthly rate of $17,550,833 for the period from 1 July 2009 to 26 February 2010 and the further amount of $71,449,445 at a monthly rate of $17,550,833 for the period from 27 February to 30 June 2010, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Mission.

10. In his report to the Security Council on the Mission (S/2009/72), the Secretary-General had informed the Council that his Special Representative had received official requests from the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste and the President of the National Electoral Commission for assistance with village and municipal elections.

11. While the Security Council had requested the Mission to extend the necessary support, the resolution containing that request (1867 (2009)), had been adopted after submission to the General Assembly of

the Mission's proposed budget, which did not therefore contain the necessary resource requirements estimated at $3.1 million. It was intended that the amount concerned should be absorbed within the proposed budget for 2009/10 and that actual expenditures should be reported to the General Assembly within the context of the Mission's performance report for 2009/10. The General Assembly was invited to take note of the estimated requirements.

12. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/549 and Corr.1), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $535,372,800 for the Mission, and that expenditure had been $534,068,200, leaving an unencumbered balance of $1,304,600, which represented an implementation rate of 99.8 per cent.

13. The main reasons for the variance were reduced expenditure on communications equipment and spare parts; lower costs for local and international broadcasting services; and reduced expenditure on utilities, maintenance and air transportation services.

14. The General Assembly was invited to decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $1,304,600 and of other income for the period ended 30 June 2008 amounting to $17,720,800.

15. The proposed budget for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/709) was 7.6 per cent higher than the resources that had been approved for 2008/09, reflecting additional international staff requirements; increased facilities and infrastructure costs; increased requirements for ground transportation; additional military contingent requirements; and increased air transportation costs.

16. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate the amount of $618,624,000 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 and to assess the amount of $180,432,000 for the period from 1 July 2009 to 15 October 2009 and the further amount of $438,192,000 for the period from 16 October 2009 to 30 June 2010 at a monthly rate of $51,552,000, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Mission.

17. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related reports of the Advisory Committee (A/63/746/Add.3, 7 and 10), said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of $9,491,900 in the proposed budget of UNOCI for 2009/10. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's staffing proposals, with the exception of the proposed upward reclassification of the posts of Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General from P-3 to P-5 and of Spokesperson in the Communications and Public Information Office from P-4 to P-5. No convincing arguments had been advanced for the reclassifications. The Advisory Committee also recommended approval of the proposed conversion of 21 posts from international to national positions, which would reduce costs by $1,467,200 and contribute to national capacity-building. It further recommended using the average cost of fuel between January and March 2009 as the basis for estimating requirements in 2009/10. The Mission's proposed budget for 2009/10 would be reduced by $7,038,767 as a result.

18. The Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the proposed budget for MINUSTAH for 2009/10 would entail a reduction of $3,298,700. It had no objection to the Secretary-General's staffing proposals, and welcomed the fact that most of the new positions requested were national posts.

19. The Advisory Committee had requested, but had not received, additional justification for the significant increase in proposed official travel and therefore recommended a 20 per cent reduction in the resources requested. It further recommended using the average cost of fuel between January and March 2009 as the basis for estimating requirements in 2009/10, which would entail a reduction of $2,816,370 in the Mission's proposed budget for 2009/10.

20. The Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of $8,135,662 in the proposed budget of UNMIT for 2009/10. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Mission should keep its support structure under review in order to align it with the phased drawdown of United Nations police personnel. It further recommended against approval of the net increase of 31 support posts whose functions should be accommodated within the Mission's existing capacity.

21. Lastly, it recommended using the average cost of fuel between January and March 2009 as the basis for

estimating requirements in 2009/10, which would reduce the proposed budget for 2009/10 by $1,914,862. The Advisory Committee's recommendation on fuel costs would reduce the estimate for air transportation to $24,267,000.

22. The Advisory Committee expected that the support by UNMIT for the local elections would be accommodated from within the level of resources which it had recommended for 2009/10. It recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the resource requirements for the election assistance to be provided by UNMIT.

23. **Ms. Ahlenius** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the programme evaluation of the performance and the achievement of results by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (A/63/713), said that the selection of UNOCI as the subject of the very first programme evaluation of a peacekeeping mission had been based on an OIOS risk assessment of peacekeeping operations. If it was allocated the requisite resources, OIOS hoped to conduct at least two such evaluations per year, thereby ensuring that all missions were assessed at least once during their operational lifetimes.

24. The evaluation of UNOCI examined the relevance of the Operation's mandate and the progress made in achieving it, measured the Operation's outputs and efficiency in delivering them, assessed the validity of the Operation's strategies and partnership arrangements, and attempted to identify best practices for the benefit of other peacekeeping operations.

25. OIOS made 16 recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Operation, whose presence remained critical to the peace process. The Operation had made substantial progress in those aspects of its mandate over which it exercised direct operational control, but limited progress in those areas where it played a supporting role.

26. The evaluation found that strategic planning needed strengthening in order for the operation to fully achieve its mandates. In particular, future planning needed an exit strategy that addressed the eventual consolidation, drawdown and withdrawal of the peacekeeping force.

27. The evaluation also found that the logistical and technical challenges in organizing elections in Côte d'Ivoire presented opportunities for the Operation to utilize its experience, capacity and neutrality.

28. Other areas addressed in the evaluation included the limited progress of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the disarmament of militias, which posed a risk to the peace process. Another important finding was that the security of United Nations personnel and premises needed immediate review and tightening to ensure the required standards of safety.

29. Overall, the evaluation found that the local population held a very positive view of the United Nations and its peacekeeping operations and understood their role in helping to end conflict and to provide a safe and stable environment.

30. **Ms. Pataca** (Angola), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States on agenda item 134, reiterated the Group's view that achieving peace and security in Côte d'Ivoire was an integral part of pursuing stability and development in West Africa. In that connection, she welcomed the Ivorian Government's announcement that presidential elections would be held in November 2009.

31. The Group was pleased to note that, for the fourth consecutive year, UNOCI had received fewer recommendations from the Board of Auditors than in the previous year, owing to the establishment of an audit focal point to ensure that all recommendations were monitored and implemented on a timely basis. It also supported the Advisory Committee's comments regarding improvements in the Operation's presentation of budget submissions. The Group, which remained committed to its position that all peacekeeping missions should be provided with sufficient funding to fulfil their mandates, was concerned at the reduction in the proposed budget for UNOCI recommended by the Advisory Committee, as well as at the Operation's high budgeted vacancy factors for 2008/09, particularly with regard to the United Nations Police. It would be seeking further clarification on those issues during informal consultations.

32. The Group considered that adequate implementation by UNOCI of the 16 recommendations contained in the OIOS report (A/63/713) could make a major contribution to the goals of the Ouagadougou

Political Agreement, particularly with regard to the organization of free, transparent and fair elections. Continued implementation of all 124 quick-impact projects referred to in the Secretary-General's report (A/63/724) was also crucial for building confidence, reconciliation and social cohesion within Ivorian society as well as improving mutual understanding between local populations and the Operation.

33. **Ms. Berlanga** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group on agenda item 141, reaffirmed the Group's commitment to the reconstruction of Haiti and recalled the support that it had provided for restoring democratic institutions, promoting social development and combating poverty. It was confident that Haiti would continue to advance peacefully towards greater political and social stability, laying the foundations for economic progress.

34. While it acknowledged that Haiti had already made progress in key areas, the Group reiterated that security improvements must be achieved hand in hand with socio-economic development. For that reason, MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team should strengthen their development work and coordination in support of Haiti's efforts to achieve long-term stability. During informal consultations, the Group would be seeking further information on the Secretary-General's proposals and the Advisory Committee's recommendations, with a view to ensuring that MINUSTAH had sufficient resources to fulfil its mandate.

35. The Group remained concerned at the imbalance in the Mission between the number of peacekeeping personnel from Latin America and the Caribbean (almost 60 per cent) and the limited presence of professional international civilian staff from the same region. Lastly, it acknowledged the important coordination role of the 2 x 9 mechanism of Latin American troop-contributing countries, which helped those countries to better plan their strategies for cooperation with Haiti, thereby avoiding duplication and optimizing the use of resources on the ground.

36. **Mr. Taula** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Canada and Australia on agenda item 138, said that UNMIT continued to play a crucial role in assisting the Timorese Government to consolidate democracy and further the process of national reconciliation. While the Mission and the Government, assisted by the presence of the International Stabilization Force of Australian and New Zealand troops, had made significant progress in the past year, much work still lay ahead. In particular, the phased handover of policing responsibility from UNMIT to the national police was an immediate challenge that required close monitoring and support from the Mission. The underlying situation in Timor-Leste remained fragile and a cautious approach was still required when planning for the Mission's future, including for a possible drawdown of police officers, in order to ensure that security gains were consolidated.

37. While cost increases and other external factors represented a significant proportion of the increase in the proposed budget for 2009/10, a number of new national and international posts had also been proposed. The three delegations would like to receive further information on the importance of those functions, as well as on the budgetary impact of the policing handover process, among other elements. They also remained concerned about continued high vacancy and turnover rates in UNMIT, and would appreciate an update from the Secretariat on that situation.

38. **Mr. Poulin** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand on agenda item 141, said that while MINUSTAH had made progress in key areas, much remained to be done. The devastation caused by the 2008 hurricanes illustrated the complex set of challenges faced by Haiti, as well as the need for a robust and multifaceted United Nations presence in the area. Given the interrelated nature of security, humanitarian and development challenges, close cooperation between MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team was of the utmost importance. In that connection, the three delegations trusted that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General would continue to support an integrated approach by all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes operating in Haiti.

39. The CANZ delegations were concerned at the outstanding balance of $273,169,000 in assessed contributions and urged all Member States to pay their assessments in full, on time and without conditions. MINUSTAH needed appropriate resources, including a healthy cash flow, to respond quickly to unforeseen challenges and priorities, as evidenced by the hurricanes and protests seen in Haiti in 2008. In that connection, during informal consultations the CANZ delegations would like to receive further information

on the projected shortfall of $21,430,100 in the budget for 2008/09.

40. **Ms. Corti** (Argentina), speaking also on behalf of Uruguay on agenda item 141, stressed that the General Assembly must provide MINUSTAH with the resources necessary to implement its mandate. As a result of the various setbacks suffered by Haiti's stabilization process in 2008, which had jeopardized the country's socio-economic development and underscored the fragility of the achievements made to date, MINUSTAH faced a renewed requirement to address the population's needs and to continue supporting the Government in institution-building and the consolidation of State authority throughout the country.

41. For that reason, Argentina and Uruguay supported all of the Secretary-General's proposals, including his requests for new posts, which were based on a comprehensive review of the Mission's staffing structure. With regard to the proposed quick-impact projects, which were an integrated element of the Mission's overall strategy for implementing its mandate, they noted that, although the proposed amount for 2009/10 was the same as the amount approved for 2008/09, the number of projects had increased.

42. The two delegations welcomed the Advisory Committee's comments on the Mission's efforts to reduce requirements and supported the Secretary-General's proposal to establish the Corrections Unit as a separate organizational unit. During informal consultations they would be requesting further information on the 20 per cent reduction in estimated requirements for official travel for 2009/10 recommended by the Advisory Committee.

43. Lastly, the two delegations wished to recognize the input of the coordination forums for donors and troop-contributing countries, which provided strategy guidance and support for Haitian Government efforts to achieve sustainable development, stability and political dialogue. The 2 x 9 mechanism, which brought together the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs of the Latin American troop-contributing countries, had added particular value to those endeavours and illustrated those countries' commitment to security and development in Haiti.

44. **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire) thanked the Organization for its unfailing support for the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, to which all the Ivorian parties remained committed. All signatories to the Agreement had the political will to hold presidential elections in 2009; the electoral college of Côte d'Ivoire had recently been convened and a decree had been issued to determine the period of the first electoral round. The Permanent Consultative Framework of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, at its fifth meeting on 18 May 2009, had endorsed the Government's decision to hold that first round on 29 November 2009 and had taken note of the detailed timeline for the electoral process proposed by the Independent Electoral Commission. In that connection, the deployment of the Integrated Command Centre joint police and gendarmerie units, launched on 5 May 2009, was progressing well.

45. A number of recent decisions would help Côte d'Ivoire to finance its crisis recovery process. In March 2009, for example, the country had become eligible for a Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) arrangement and had reached the decision point under the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. The Paris Club had also recently signed an agreement with the Ivorian Government on the restructuring of its external public debt, including the cancellation of $845 million, while the European Investment Bank had suspended Côte d'Ivoire's outstanding debt repayments until 2012 and had recommenced lending operations after over 10 years of inactivity. Other significant developments were the recent visit by the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund to Côte d'Ivoire and the fact that the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank was to be held in Abidjan, the permanent location of the Bank's headquarters, which had temporarily been relocated to Tunis at the start of the Ivorian crisis in 2002.

46. His delegation was grateful to all Côte d'Ivoire's development partners, particularly the French Government, for their ongoing support. It urged them to continue their efforts until the country reached the completion point under the HIPC Initiative. The Ivorian Government faced heavy financial commitments, since it shared with the international community the responsibility for funding various components of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, as well as having to meet its regular budget requirements and implement its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. The resources to be allocated to

UNOCI were therefore still of great strategic importance, given the role of the Operation in supporting the Ivorian authorities' efforts to bring the current crisis to an end.

47. In view of the progress being made in the crisis recovery process, the Ivorian authorities did not want the elections to be delayed owing to a lack of resources for UNOCI. The country had reached a turning point which required all necessary human, material and financial resources to be made available in a timely manner. His delegation therefore echoed the concerns expressed by the representative of the Group of African States regarding the reduction in the proposed budget recommended by the Advisory Committee. He called on the Fifth Committee to approve all the resources requested for UNOCI for 2009/10, in order to assist Côte d'Ivoire in holding open and transparent elections in accordance with international standards, as well as in implementing all other components of its crisis recovery process. In particular, his delegation hoped that all estimated resource requirements for quick-impact projects would be approved, given their role in promoting national reconciliation and social cohesion. More international posts should also be converted to national posts, where feasible, in order to build local capacity and contribute to the ideals of the United Nations.

48. **Mr. Torres** (Chile), speaking on agenda item 141, said that his delegation fully supported the budget proposed for MINUSTAH so as to ensure its capacity to fulfil its mandate, which had been made more difficult by the current global economic situation and the natural disasters that had befallen Haiti in 2008. Quick-impact projects, in particular, which were directly beneficial to the population, helped to improve the security situation and build trust between the members of the Mission and the Haitian people. It was important for local authorities to be involved in the implementation of such projects and in identifying priorities. It was also necessary to establish more effective mechanisms for MINUSTAH to coordinate its activities with actors on the ground, in particular with the Haitian Government, which had put in place a strategy for growth and poverty alleviation.

49. MINUSTAH should also have the capacity to offer more effective support to the Haitian National Police reform plan, which had a central role to play in stabilizing the country and consolidating the rule of law.

50. He wished to highlight the active support being provided by Chile and other Latin American nations in that area. Special attention should be given by United Nations police to improved monitoring and training of Haitian police officers. Chile noted with concern, lastly, that Latin America and the Caribbean were poorly represented in the Mission's international civilian staff at around 6 per cent, while providing nearly 60 per cent of its military contingent. Every effort should be made to remedy that geographical imbalance.

51. **Mr. Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil), speaking on item 141, said that, despite progress in some areas of civil and political life in Haiti, there had been a marked deterioration in the living conditions of the population, due in particular to natural disasters and the impact of the global financial and food crisis. Haiti needed increased international support to enable it to overcome its current challenges and embark on a path to stability, reconstruction and development. Those challenges were interconnected and sustainable progress on security issues, national reconciliation and development must go hand in hand. MINUSTAH was uniquely placed to assist Haiti and must receive resources commensurate with its complex mandate. However, the fragility of the gains made in improving security in the country demonstrated that more work was needed to make them fully sustainable. A key to achieving that goal was the reform and strengthening of the Haitian National Police, the judiciary and the correctional system, which were all actively supported by the Mission. MINUSTAH also helped in border control and in the development of a comprehensive community violence reduction programme. It likewise supported the political process, in particular by providing logistical assistance for the electoral process. It was therefore important for the Mission to receive the additional resources it required for the upcoming elections. In that connection, the cuts proposed by the Advisory Committee would hamper the ability of the Mission to implement its mandate.

52. His delegation welcomed the appointment of former President Bill Clinton as the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Haiti, which should help to attract international attention and investment to the country. The global financial crisis had brought additional hardship to Haiti, owing in particular to the increased financial constraints of donor countries, and it therefore needed more than ever the helping hand of

the international community. Sufficient resources must be earmarked for quick-impact projects. According to the policy directive of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, budgetary requests for such projects should constitute up to 1 per cent of the requested resources, which in the case of MINUSTAH would have amounted to $6 million, as opposed to the $2 million in the 2009/10 cost estimates. His delegation would appreciate clarification of the request that had been made by the Secretary-General.

53. Turning to item 138, he commended the Timorese Government for the progress made in normalizing the political and security situation in the country, for the significant improvement made in ensuring the return of internally displaced persons, and for addressing the situation of petitioners. Substantial challenges still remained, however. In particular, the persistence of deep poverty and the continuing existence of camps of internally displaced persons called for renewed efforts.

54. On the key issue of security sector reform, he welcomed the progress made in the registration, screening and certification programme for the national police and the willingness of the Government to allow the national police to resume policing responsibilities. However, that process would take time and should not prompt an early downsizing of UNMIT which might later prove to be unsustainable. It was important in that context that UNMIT be provided with sufficient resources to plan and implement a comprehensive training programme for local law enforcement bodies with a view to transferring responsibilities to them, and that it continue to support the drafting of local laws and the training of judiciary personnel. Moreover, under its mandate related to governance, development and humanitarian coordination, UNMIT would need additional resources for 2009/10 to support village and municipal elections, as requested by Security Council resolution 1867 (2009). Indeed, in view of the increased operational needs generated by those local elections, the reductions in fuel and air transportation costs suggested by the Advisory Committee might impair the Mission's ability to discharge its mandate. In addition, those cuts might make it impossible to absorb from the budget proposed by the Secretary-General the additional requirement of $3 million for the support of the elections, without compromising the Mission's operations.

55. **Mr. Déjoie** (Haiti), speaking on item 141, welcomed the contribution of MINUSTAH to the reform and restructuring of the National Police and looked forward to the early implementation of the Board of Auditors' recommendations in order to consolidate the progress made. The Mission should more closely coordinate its activities with those of the Government and other actors so as to guard against duplication.

56. His delegation welcomed the reduced vacancy rates for national staff and supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that local staff should be given appropriate training so as to contribute to national capacity-building. It would welcome more information on certain posts that had been approved in 2006/07 but which had not yet been filled. It also welcomed the recent appointment of former President Bill Clinton as the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Haiti and wished him every success in further contributing, in collaboration with all the other national and international partners, to the well-being of the Haitian people.

Agenda item 132: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/63/581 and A/63/856)

Updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2008 (A/63/581)

57. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2008 (A/63/581), said that five of the 21 peacekeeping missions covered in the report reflected cash deficits totalling $86.7 million and that the other 16 reflected cash surpluses totalling $186.3 million which were available for credit to Member States. The latter amount was net of loans totalling $37.8 million owed by two closed and two active peacekeeping missions. In the 2007/08 financial period, a total of $72 million in cross-borrowing had been required for four active missions, while $118.5 million had been required for seven active missions in the 2008/09 financial period. It was anticipated that the need for cross-borrowing might increase in the 2009/10 financial period, owing to the continued deployment of the increased strength of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the transfer of authority between the European Union and the United Nations military component of the United Nations Mission in

the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). In addition, a request was being made to the General Assembly to ensure the availability of financial resources for the continued support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Pending receipt of assessed contributions, any shortfall related to those operations might have to be met from loans from closed peacekeeping missions.

58. The General Assembly was being requested to approve the retention of the cash balance of $186,297,000 available in 16 closed peacekeeping missions in the light of the experience with the Organization's cash requirements during the 2007/08 and 2008/09 financial periods.

59. **Ms. McLurg** (Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee said, with reference to the Secretary-General's proposal that the General Assembly should approve the retention of the cash balance of $186,297,000 available in 16 closed peacekeeping missions, that the Advisory Committee continued to be of the view that it was for the General Assembly to decide on the disposition of such balances.

60. **Mr. Gürber** (Switzerland) said that the only change in the situation facing the Committee as compared with the previous year, when it had failed to agree on a solution to the problem of debts in cash-deficient closed missions, was that the amount of unpaid assessments and retained cash surpluses as well as the level of cross-borrowing between peacekeeping missions had risen. The simple solution was for all Member States to comply with their Charter obligation to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. While there might be legitimate reasons why a country might be temporarily unable to meet that obligation, national legislation could not be used as an excuse for withholding contributions. He recalled that the Board of Auditors had recommended creating a provision for delays in the collection of outstanding assessments, thereby providing accurate measurement and disclosure of long-outstanding assessed contributions. The lack of clarity regarding long-overdue contributions seriously hampered proper financial reporting and, with the introduction of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, was likely to become an even more pressing concern.

61. It was neither fair nor sustainable that Member States that had fulfilled all their financial obligations in respect of closed missions should provide liquidity for active missions because other Member States were withholding their payments to some closed missions. The cash balance of $186,297,000 available in the accounts of closed missions should be returned to Member States in accordance with financial regulation 5.3, thereby satisfying, at least in part, the justified claims of troop- and police-contributing countries, which continued to be adversely affected by the non-payment of some $430 million in assessments for closed missions.

62. **Mr. Muhith** (Bangladesh) said that unpaid assessments for peacekeeping operations had resulted in cash requirements for the Organization, which in turn had led to the proposal that the surplus balance from closed peacekeeping missions should be retained. However, under financial regulation 5.3, it was only appropriate for the balance to be returned to those Member States that had paid their assessments for those missions in full, including the amounts owed to troop-contributing countries for contingent-owned equipment.

The meeting rose at noon.